

Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

Date 1/19/25 Rick Rhoads

Watch the sermon at manheimbic.org/sermon.



BIBLE PASSAGES - Revelation 2:12-17

12 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

'The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword.

13 "I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith[a] even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

14 But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. **15** So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

16 Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth.

17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.'

For your Group Time:

Connect:

Get to know each other. Connect, warm up to each other, and take time to fellowship.

Care:

Carry each other's burdens. Share life's challenges and practice Soul Care. Pray together.

Challenge:

Take a minute and pray as a group for God to speak to you as we read these letters. What does he have for your group? For you individually? For MBIC?

From Rick's Message:

1. What does it look like to faithfully follow Jesus in a "melting pot" culture?
2. As believers, it's easy to go to the extreme of unloving truth or truthless love. Which do you personally feel tempted to lean towards?
3. What are some examples of both extremes that you've encountered?
4. Sometimes we can get paralyzed between the two - love and truth, not sure how to engage a person or situation. If you're in a situation like that now, share it with the group and pray together for wisdom and direction.
5. Rick said that faithfully following Jesus leads to sustenance, forgiveness, and a new identity. Take some time to discuss these three outcomes. Review what they mean. How have you experienced them personally?

Clarify:

Does anyone need clarity on something? Are there any big God questions you are wrestling with?

Celebrate:

Celebrate life's successes and God's provision. Worship God's presence. Time to brag about God.

KEY TAKEAWAYS